

**ODONTHOGNOPHOS DUMETATA TREITSCHKE
(LEPIDOPTERA: GEOMETRIDAE) NEW TO THE BRITISH ISLES
WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW FORM,
HIBERNICA FORDER SSP. NOV.**

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WHILST MY WIFE and I were collecting lepidoptera in Co. Clare, Western Ireland, during August 1991 we took two moths at m.v. light which looked superficially like the Tissue Moth, *Triphosa dubitata* L. These were placed in the cabinet as an unusual colour form of this species.

In January 1992, whilst Nigel Gill was looking through my collection, I drew his attention to these two specimens and he confirmed what I was beginning to suspect — that these were not examples of *dubitata*.

Neither of the standard works on British moths, Skinner (1984) and South (1961), illustrated these moths, nor did the recently published work on the geometrids of Northern Europe (Skou, 1986). I then consulted Brian Elliott, and with his help the moths were identified from Seitz (1912) as *Odothognophos dumetata*, a species hitherto unknown in the British Isles.

The species is very local in central and southern Europe, the adult being on the wing in August and September. The larval foodplants are given as *Rhamnus* spp. and *Phillyrea latifolia* L.

A number of named subspecies have been described from continental Europe. The Irish specimens are, as far as is known, the most northerly population of this moth, and are very different in colour from the brownish continental forms. It would appear that they represent a distinct subspecies.



Odothognophos dumetata hibernica ($\times 2.5$)

Odonthognophos dumetata hibernica spp.nov. : ground colour distinct blue-grey.

Holotype : male. Co. Clare. 7.8.1991 (Peter Forder). Forder coll.

Allotype : female. Co. Clare. 17.8.1992 (Bernard Skinner). British Museum (Natural History) coll.

Paratypes: male. Co. Clare. 7.8.1991 (Peter Forder). Forder coll.
male. Co. Clare. 12.8.1992 (Bernard Skinner). British Museum (Natural History) coll.

Since the original discovery of the species in Co. Clare, Western Ireland, a number of suitable localities have been searched, and the moths seems to have a very restricted distribution in Ireland. Further specimens have been taken, and the larvae have been successfully reared on buckthorn (*Rhamnus catharticus* L.) A further full report will be made when a full breeding cycle has been completed.

This species was formerly placed in the genus *Gnophos*, and I suggest that its proper position in the list for Great Britain and Ireland be immediately before the Annulet, *Gnophos obscuratus* D. & S. The Bradley and Fletcher log-book number would therefore be 1962a. In view of the association with the genus *Gnophus*, I would suggest that the Irish Annulet would be a suitable vernacular name.

Odonthognophos dumetata is figured in a number of works in addition to Seitz (1912). Culot (1919-1920) beautifully illustrates both the type and subspecies *daubearia*. The type is also figured in Forster & Wohlfahrt (1981), Hofmann (1984), Koch (1961), Lampert (1907) and Spuler (1910).

Acknowledgements

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